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Brookline, Mass. Leyden Congregational Church records, 1895-1975. RG0701

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Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Suite 200

Boston, MA 02108

Business Number: 617-523-0470

info@14beacon.org

URL: <http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Leyden Congregational Church (Brookline, Mass.)
Title:	Brookline, Mass. Leyden Congregational Church records, 1895-1975.
ID:	RG0701
Date [inclusive]:	1895-1975
Physical Description:	3.71 Cubic Feet (4 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Leyden Congregational Church in Brookline, Massachusetts was incorporated on November 24, 1896, with the cornerstone for the church building at 1835 Beacon Street having been laid on May 19, 1899. The Church eventually closed in 1975, after nearly eight decades of serving its neighboring community. This collection contains records on the committees and organizations, history, administration, building and finances, and church life of Leyden Congregational Church.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Brookline, Mass. Leyden Congregational Church records, 1895-1975, RG0701. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The Leyden Congregational Church in Brookline, Massachusetts was incorporated on November 24, 1896, with the formal organization of the church and installation of Dr. Harris G. Hale as pastor having taken place on November 4 of that year. For three years, services were held in the Beaconsfield Casino. The cornerstone for the church building at 1835 Beacon Street was laid on May 19, 1899, and the first morning worship took place six months later.

The building was restored in the late 1920s after a fire damaged the House of Worship. Still, the Church and its community celebrated many joyous events and occasions, including its 50th and 75th anniversaries. Beyond the administration of the Leyden Congregational itself, the Church led various organizations and committees. This included the Woman's Union, which was comprised mostly of women members of the Church. The Union carried out missionary and charity work, impacting the local and the international.

During its time, Leyden Congregational Church voted to ratify the "Basis of Union" in 1937 and joined the United Church of Christ in 1962. Leyden Congregational Church eventually closed in 1975, after nearly eight decades of serving its neighboring community. Today, the building at 1835 Beacon Street is occupied by the Chinese Christian Church.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains records on the administration, building, and finances of Leyden Congregational Church, including those from the Church's treasurer and Board of Trustees. The collection also holds records on church life and history, which feature a scrapbook as well as materials on the Church's 40th, 50th, and 75th, anniversaries. Finally, in this collection there are records on the committees and organizations associated with Leyden Congregational, such as their Woman's Union.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged into five series. The second and third series have been further arranged into three and six sub-series, respectively. Records in each series and sub-series have been arranged by topic and in chronological order.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

Restrictions on Use

Items in this collection are subject to U.S. Copyright Law. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine the copyright status of collection items and to secure any permissions necessary for their reproduction and publication. Requests for permission to publish material must be discussed with the archivist or librarian.

Acquisition Information

Materials were donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by the Congregational Christian Historical Society in 1975; no accession number.

Processing Information

This collection was processed in April 2025 by Rebecca Arabian.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Church anniversaries.
- Church finance.
- Church history.

- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Women in missionary work.
- Women -- Societies and clubs.
- Hale, Harris, 1865-1945
- Leyden Congregational Church (Brookline, Mass.)

Collection Inventory

Committee records, 1895-1975

Physical Description: 17 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains records from various organizations within and connected to the Leyden Congregational Church, including the Building Committee, Church Committee, Church Council, Ecclesiastical Council, Music Committee, Prudential Board, and Woman's Union.

Title/Description	Instances	
Building Committee records, 1895-1925	box 3	folder 11
Building Committee records, 1898-1899	box 2	folder 14
Church Committee records, 1896-1903	box 2	folder 15
Church Committee records, 1900-1925	box 2	folder 16
Church Committee records, 1964-1965	box 2	folder 17
Church Council meeting minutes , 1895-1899	box 2	folder 18
Copy of Ecclesiastical Council meeting minutes, 1896-1924	box 2	folder 19
Music Committee records, 1926	box 2	folder 20
Woman's Union records, 1896-1903	box 2	folder 26
Woman's Union records, 1898-1912	box 2	folder 27
Woman's Union Social Department records, 1901-1913	box 1	folder 39
Woman's Union records, 1911-1975, (1968-1975)	box 1	folder 38
Woman's Union financial records, 1965-1970	box 2	folder 23
Woman's Union and Mary Crosby records, 1936-1964	box 2	folder 24
Woman's Union and Mary Crosby records, 1974	box 2	folder 25
Prudential Board meeting minutes, 1966-1974	box 2	folder 21
Prudential Board meeting minutes, 1966-1975	box 2	folder 22

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Church History, 1896-1974

Physical Description: 8 Folders

Physical Description: 1 Volume

Scope and Contents

This series contains records on the anniversaries and history of Leyden Congregational Church, as well as books of remembrance.

Histories, 1896-1949

Physical Description: 2 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains a scrapbook and other records on the history of Leyden Congregational Church.

Title/Description	Instances	
Church histories, 1896-1949	box 3	folder 10
Scrapbook, 1932-1933	box 2	folder 12

Anniversaries, 1936-1971

Physical Description: 5 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains records and correspondence pertaining to the 40th, 50th, and 75th anniversaries of the Leyden Congregational Church.

Title/Description	Instances	
40th Anniversary records, 1936	box 2	folder 7
50th Anniversary correspondence, 1946	box 2	folder 8
50th Anniversary records, 1946	box 2	folder 9
75th Anniversary correspondence, 1971	box 2	folder 10
75th Anniversary records, 1971	box 2	folder 11

Remembrances, 1954-1974

Physical Description: 1 Folder

Physical Description: 1 Volume

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains books of remembrances from the Leyden Congregational Church.

Title/Description	Instances	
Book of Remembrance, 1954-1968	box 4	volume 1
Remembrances, 1958-1974	box 2	folder 13

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Church Administration, 1896-1975

Physical Description: 43 Folders

Physical Description: 4 Volumes

Physical Description: 2 Items

Scope and Contents

This series contains annual reports, bylaws and their proposed revisions, and records pertaining to the Board of Trustees, clerks, and ministers of the Leyden Congregational Church.

Membership and Vital records, 1896-1975

Physical Description: 4 Volumes

Physical Description: 2 Items

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains membership records from the Leyden Congregational Church, beginning in 1896.

Title/Description	Instances	
Membership records, 1896-1948	box 1	volume 1
Membership records, 1896-1973	box 2	volume 1
Membership records, 1946-1960	box 2	volume 2
Membership records, 1949-1955	box 2	volume 3
Membership records, through 1974	box 4	Item 1

Scope and Contents

This collection of membership cards ends in 1974. A start date is unknown.

Membership records, after 1975	box 4	Item 2
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Scope and Contents

This collection of membership cards starts in 1975.
An end date is unknown.

Annual reports, 1897-1973

Physical Description: 9 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains annual reports for the Leyden Congregational Church from 1897 to 1973.

Title/Description	Instances	
Annual report, 1897	box 1	folder 3
Annual report, 1898	box 3	folder 2
Annual report, 1899	box 3	folder 3
Annual report, 1927	box 1	folder 4
Annual reports, 1927-1949	box 3	folder 4
Annual reports, 1950-1974	box 3	folder 5
Annual reports, 1965-1967	box 1	folder 5
Annual reports, 1967-1970	box 1	folder 6
Annual reports, 1967-1973	box 1	folder 7

Clerk's records, 1924-1967

Physical Description: 3 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains clerk's records from the Leyden Congregational Church from 1924 to 1967.

Title/Description	Instances	
Clerk's records, 1924-1941	box 1	folder 32
Clerk's records, 1942-1954	box 1	folder 33
Clerk's records, 1955-1967	box 1	folder 34

Ministerial records, 1927, 1964

Physical Description: 2 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains ministerial records from the Leyden Congregational Church as well as records from the Old South Church in Boston, Massachusetts.

Title/Description	Instances	
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Old South Church records, 1927	box 2	folder 2
Ministerial records, 1964	box 2	folder 1

Board of Trustees records, 1928-1971

Physical Description: 27 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains meeting minutes, records, and correspondence from the Board of Trustees of the Leyden Congregational Church, as well as records on the New Perspectives School.

Title/Description	Instances	
Board of Trustees meeting minutes, 1928-1938	box 1	folder 15
Board of Trustees meeting minutes, 1960-1966	box 1	folder 16
Board of Trustees meeting minutes, 1964	box 1	folder 17
Board of Trustees meeting minutes, 1964-1965	box 3	folder 6
Board of Trustees meeting minutes, 1964-1966	box 1	folder 18
Board of Trustees meeting minutes, 1965	box 3	folder 7
Board of Trustees meeting minutes, 1966-1968	box 1	folder 19
Board of Trustees meeting minutes, 1966-1970	box 1	folder 20
Board of Trustees meeting minutes, 1966-1971	box 1	folder 21
Board of Trustees meeting minutes, 1966-1973	box 1	folder 22
Board of Trustees meeting minutes, 1968	box 1	folder 23
Board of Trustees records, 1928-1929	box 3	folder 8
Board of Trustees records, 1940-1960	box 1	folder 25
Board of Trustees records, 1957-1962	box 1	folder 26
Board of Trustees records, 1962-1964	box 1	folder 27
Board of Trustees records, 1965-1970	box 1	folder 28
Board of Trustees records, 1966-1968	box 1	folder 29
Board of Trustees property records, 1945-1960	box 3	folder 9
Board of Trustees Treasurer's Bonds records, 1956	box 1	folder 37
Board of Trustees Heating Equipment records, 1957	box 1	folder 13
Board of Trustees House Committee records, 1957-1959	box 1	folder 14
Board of Trustees correspondence, 1949-1951	box 1	folder 8
Board of Trustees correspondence, 1953-1960	box 1	folder 9
Board of Trustees correspondence, 1954	box 1	folder 10

Board of Trustees correspondence, 1957-1964	box 1	folder 11
Board of Trustees and Town of Brookline correspondence, 1953-1960	box 1	folder 12
New Perspectives School records, 1971	box 1	folder 24

Bylaws and Proposed Revisions, 1931-1966

Physical Description: 2 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains the bylaws and proposed revisions of the bylaws of the Leyden Congregational Church from 1931 to 1966.

Title/Description	Instances	
Bylaws and Proposed Revisions, 1931, 1963	box 1	folder 30
Bylaws and Proposed Revisions, 1965-1966	box 1	folder 31

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Building and Finance records, 1901-1974

Physical Description: 6 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains building and finance records for Leyden Congregational Church. These records include an article of the restoration of the church building, a copy of the church charter, deeds, treasurer reports, and trust funds.

Title/Description	Instances	
Church deeds, 1901, 1960-1961	box 1	folder 35
Trust Funds, 1903-1940	box 3	folder 1
Annual Treasurer reports, 1927, 1930-1947	box 1	folder 1
Article on Building Restoration, October 19, 1929	box 1	folder 40
Annual Treasurer report, 1967	box 1	folder 2
Copy of Church Charter, 1974	box 1	folder 36

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Church Life, 1926-1967

Physical Description: 4 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains a report from the Choral Club, parish correspondence, an obituary on former minister Harris G. Hale, and canvassing records of the Leyden Congregational Church.

Title/Description	Instances	
Choral Club report, 1926	box 2	folder 3
Parish correspondence, 1926-1953, 1966	box 2	folder 5
Ministry of Harris G. Hale, 1945	box 2	folder 6
"Every Member Canvass" records, 1956-1967	box 2	folder 4

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